



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

June 8, 2023

Meeting Minutes

On Conference Call:

Mora McLaughlin
Dan Duffy
Christina Maloni Hoover
Sarah Stoner
Sarah Viszneki
Michael Podskoch
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis
Israel Gray
Gina Miller
Julie Barg
Marcela Gonzalez Rivas
Barry King

Welcome and Introductions

- Small Diameter Water Main Replacement (SDWMR) Program Update
- LSLR Program Update
- Other Updates
 - Termination Status
 - Orthophosphate Optimization
 - Private Side Reimbursement Program
 - General
- Date and priorities for next meeting

SDWMR Updates:

- 2021 work is essentially wrapped up, restoration is finishing up in a couple neighborhoods.
- Hazelwood and Squirrel Hill work is the last to be completed, finish last couple service lines and water main tie-ins to do.
- 30,500 ft. of water main replaced.



- Lead map on website shows completed, planned future work, and active work. Includes water main and lead line work.
- Agreement status for 2021 SDWMR:
 - Received all but one agreement, terminated service there (vacant property).
 - Have verified all but two locations to-date.
 - 36% public, 31% private lead found. Happy with the amount that we found.
 - Two locations where property was condemned, did not provide new service.

Other Water Main Replacement Activities:

- Fuchsia Way
 - Water main work is nearly complete
 - Waiting to resolve utility conflicts found during work.
 - One unoccupied location terminated within work area. Another was terminated but owner came around and had us replace the private side.
- South Side Flats Sewer Separation
 - Main work is to separate combined sewer
 - Will replace two blocks of water main as part of the work.
 - Neighborhood LSLR already replaced lead lines in the project area other than the two streets where the water main will be replaced
- 2023 Waterline Relay Project
 - Contract addresses one-off water mains that need replaced.
 - Planned: Logan Street, Kennedy Avenue, Zuzu Circle
 - Work will start sometime this fall.

Future SDWMR Activities:

- 2022 SDWMR
 - PENNVEST awarded funding in October 2022 - \$77M loan and \$6M grant
 - Bid three contracts, 13 miles of water main, 1,900 service lines
 - Bids came in over budget, will fund two contracts instead of three.
 - Re-apply to PENNVEST in August to fund the third contract
 - Agreements mailed in March, coming in well
 - PENNVEST Closing – mid-July, work will start shortly after.

Christina Maloni-Hoover: How much money do you need for the third contract?

- **The estimate for all three contracts was \$64 million, bids came in at \$94 million.**
- **Dan not as involved in funding requests, so not totally sure of those numbers.**
- **Last time we went out to bid was late 2021, happened right before inflation and major supply chain issues began impacting contractors.**
- **Seems to be national issue, not just Pittsburgh.**



- 2023 SDWMR
 - Awarded design contract in March 2023
 - Anticipated to start mid-2024
 - 12.7 miles of water main, about 2,300 service lines.
 - Full project is contingent on PENNVEST funding (6 miles already funded in our CIP).

2022 SDWMR Agreement Update:

- Already have 66% agreements back.
- Have been doing bi-weekly robocalls to unresponsive locations.
- Lead Help working through second round of direct calls to customers.
- In-person canvassing will start once construction starts this summer.

Gina Miller: Question about waterline relays: Curious how these sites are selected.

- **This is an annual contract.**
- **\$1-2 million contract, not very big.**
- **Intended for sites that are not planned. Small Diameter contracts are long-range, go through detailed design process.**
- **Relay contract addresses sites that are giving us problems – many breaks, etc. Can’t wait for long-term planning process, have to address immediately.**
- **6-8 months of planning for these sites.**

Gina Miller: How do you prioritize these?

- **Depends on the problems the main is giving us, usually ones with the most breaks are priority.**
- **Barry King confirms that overview given is accurate.**

LSLR/Future Work

- 2022 Neighborhood LSLR (funded by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021)
 - City approved \$17 million to PWSA to fund lead line replacement
 - Contracts awarded in January 2022, construction started in early-April 2022
 - Anticipated that funds will address about 1,400 sites
 - Since last meeting, sent 500 more locations in Hazelwood and will add 320 more in Troy Hill
 - Work completed in North/South Oakland, East Allegheny/North Shore, Elliott/Crafton Heights, Bloomfield, East Liberty, Squirrel Hill North, Brighton Heights.
 - Will ultimately touch ~2,600 locations.
 - Good return rates, most unresponsive sites are in Hazelwood where we just sent agreements.
 - 27% public, 27% private lead found to-date
 - Four terminations, all vacant
- 2023A



- PENNVEST approved \$9.7M grant and \$3.7M loan
- Bids received and contract awarded, these bids came in higher than expected but OK to proceed with work.
- PENNVEST money doesn't cover restoration, we will handle that through CIP budget.
- PENNVEST closes July 6, construction will follow shortly after.
- Will allow work at 1,490 locations – may increase depending on amount of lead found.
- Work will occur in Esplen, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, Perry South, Bluff, Marshall Shadeland, maybe more.
- 2023B
 - Applied for additional ~\$15M in funding from PENNVEST in May 2023
 - If approved at PENNVEST's July 19th meeting, construction to start around beginning of 2024
 - Will address another 1,500 locations – Homewood North, Larimer, Homewood West, Middle Hill, Fineview
- 2024A
 - Plan to send another application in November 2024
 - If approved, begin around July 2024
 - Will address another 1,500 locations
- 2022/2023 Urgent LSLR
 - Will replace private side lead lines when PWSA replaces public side due to leak, emergency, etc.
 - Includes contingency for public side in the event that PWSA operations is not available.
 - Current contract expires end of June – new contract bid in May, bids came in higher than expected.
 - Starting up with new contractor in July.

Opt-Out Status

- Most locations are opting out because they think private side is non-lead, we will still verify.
- If private lead is found, homeowner is notified and given an option to opt-in
- In 2021 SDWMR and 2022 Neighborhood LSLR, 53 locations declined. 51 verified non-lead, two are part of a future work area.
- PWSA Opt-Outs
 - None in current construction contracts
 - Policy: if property is condemned, we will abandon service line. If vacant, PWSA replaced public side and leaves private side pipe capped.

Outreach (Mora McLaughlin):

- Virtual public meetings – regular meetings will resume as new contracts come on-line.
- Robocalls – bi-weekly to all unresponsive sites across all contracts.



- Lead Help Direct phone calls
- Door-to-Door Canvassing – have not needed to utilize this as much due to our good return rate.
- Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
- Project updates:
 - 2022 Water Main Programs: <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/2022-water-main-replacement-program>
 - 2022 LSLR Programs: <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/2022-lead-line-replacement-programs>
- Retiring lead webpage

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: are you losing any functionality? Are you using anything from the upcoming rate increases towards these future contracts?

- We created lead.pgh2o.com to fill the gap a few years ago when we had a website with limited functionality.
- Our new website capabilities are much better, all functionality – including webforms and maps – will be transferred over to main site.
- Regarding rate increase, it will continue to address replacement of our aging distribution system, which includes the backlog of aging water mains in the system.

Overall LSLR Progress

- 10,187 public replaced
- 7,098 private replaced

Marcela Gonzalez Rivas: Do you collect data on what happens to the lead line after its removed, is it always removed?

- Few methods that we use to replace line, method determines whether lead line is physically removed or stays in place
 - If we pull the line (trenchless) then the line is removed and recycled.
 - If we mole line (trenchless, create new hole for non-lead line) old service line stays in place.
 - If we cut in place (trench) then it is removed and recycled.
 - If we cut trench and add new line in new location, stays in place.
- Unique standards for disposal. If you dispose of it, have to follow EPA requirements as it is considered hazardous waste
- If you recycle it, not considered hazardous – our contractors prefer this.
- We require the contractors to document the recycling and provide weight records of where they take it



Termination Updates

- 19 total, all unoccupied.
 - Have started the process at 898 locations, 800 of these had agreement eventually received or agreement not needed.
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Orthophosphate Update:

- 2023A compliance sampling underway, going through June 30th
 - Doing 1st and 5th liter sampling for lead, will be required to shift to 5th liter for lead by LCRR in October 2024.
 - Results for this event look good so far, may be our lowest results yet, will be certified by DEP in mid-July.
 - Continue to monitor water quality around the system to ensure proper application of orthophosphate.
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Reimbursement Program Update (Julie Barg):

- PWSA started reimbursement program in October 2020.
- Income-based, owner or tenant can apply.
- Majority (782) applicants fall into the <300% FPL
- 950 total applicants to-date
- 104 applicants have fully gone through the process.

Christina Maloni-Hoover: how many of the 104 were in <300 FPL range, other ranges? Why are there so many applicants and so few that only 104 completed it

- **53 of the 105 property owners that completed the process are at 300% of the FPL, or about 50%.**
 - **As to disparity between total applicants and total completed: Many that have applied called for some other assistance. We always ask if they are interested in reimbursement. May not have interest after the fact. We have done outreach to those who contacted a plumber, submitted estimate.**
 - 66 “in process” with plumber estimate.
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General Updates:

- Will provide PUC settlement table after meeting.
 - Web map continues to be updated monthly.
 - Customer request sampling program continues as usual.
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Housekeeping

- Next meeting, September 7th (week after Labor Day)
- Israel not available on 7th
- We will gauge availability when we send post-meeting docs.
- Meeting will include standard updates, let team know if you want other things covered.